

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
November 19, 2023
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Joleen Gleasman

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(*ELCA* – www.elca.org)



All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have wandered far from you:

we have not trusted your promises,

we have ignored your prophets in our own day,

we have squandered our inheritance of grace,

we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

Teach us to follow in your ways,

assure us again of your love,

and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

SONG: Soon and Very Soon, ELW #439

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are going' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going' to see the King!

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going' to see the King!

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are going' to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going' to see the King! Halleluja! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah shares a prophesy about judgement on the Day of the Lord...

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

“At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.’

“Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine.”

“The great day of the Lord is near – near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

“That day will be a day of wrath – a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness – a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

“I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung.

“Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath.”

In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn people back to dust,
saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”

A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death –
they are like the new grass of the morning:

In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.

We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.

You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

READING – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(Paul, Silas and Timothy write to the church in Thessalonians:) Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

– Please stand as you are able –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus said:) “Again, *(the kingdom of heaven)* will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON – Rev. Joleen Gleasman

SONG: My Faith Looks Up to Thee, ELW #759

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
How hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away.
Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

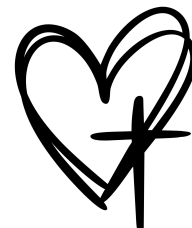
While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then in love; fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*
Merciful God... Receive our prayer.



PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.
– *Please share a socially distanced sign of peace or greeting –*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Jesus, Still Lead On, ELW #624

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless;
Guide us by your hand, to the promised land.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
Let no faithless fears overtake us, let not faith and hope forsake us:
Safely past the foe, to our home we go.

When we seek relief from a long-felt grief;
When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore, where we weep no more.

Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
Heavenly leader still direct us, still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand, in your promised land.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Saturday with St. Nick** – Sat, Dec. 2 from 10a to noon – songs, craft, snacks and a chance to visit with Santa. Bring your whole family. Free – our gift to the community.
- **Joy Bags for Sue's Pantry Kids** – This year's list includes many more children (nearly 50). Can we do it? We hate to leave anyone out. The PreSchool families are planning to do the youngest 25 children, so we are hoping to handle the teenagers. The gift bags are simple with values of approximately \$25 or \$30 with a few things for each child. For younger teens, suggestions include hats, mittens/gloves, sweater/sweatshirt, toy/game or candy. For our older teens ideas include gloves, fun socks, gift card, candy, lotion, chapstick, ear buds/charging cord, card game, journal or pens. But do what you feel and what you find! Please pray on how we might make this happen. Holly will have specifics so you can shop for a specific child (age/gender/personality), or donate cash and Holly and her elves will put things together. Email HollySJ@earthlink.net for details. Please prayerfully consider so we can brighten the holidays just a bit. Thank you!
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our first delivery to Chicago. We continue to collect: Blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, feminine products, Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – Our first batch of sleeping mats, small suitcases and OTC medicines were delivered to asylum seekers living in Police Stations and community centers in Chicago, a Sanctuary City. This collection continues as need does not end.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Always looking for housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more about this amazing organization? Talk with Natalie.
- **COOL Ministries** – We continue to support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you to all who support our partner Scouts as they have supported us – especially with yard work! Check with Scouts to see if you can still purchase popcorn or Christmas wreaths and garland.
- **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa (tcalabrese98@gmail.com).

CALENDAR:

- Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m., only, this year.
- Planning to put up the Christmas Tree after worship on November 26
- Saturday with St Nick - Dec 2
- Advent begins Dec 3